

Statement of Republic of India

on

Agenda item 3

**Protecting our Planet through Regional Cooperation and
Solidarity in Asia and the Pacific**

Madame/Mr. Chair, Excellencies, and Distinguished delegates

1. At the outset, I thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the background documents for this Committee meeting which examines the major environmental challenges being faced by Asia Pacific region focusing on air pollution, climate change, ocean and marine eco-system, sustainable cities etc. and presenting recommendations to address these challenges.

2. Preservation of the environment has always been a central pillar of Indian civilisation and culture. This has found reflection in the Government's policies and programmes, including the National Action Plan on Climate Change and the National Clean Air Programme. Our Prime Minister had outlined at COP26 Summit in Glasgow, India's commitment for scaling up climate action embodied in 'Panchamrit' or a 5-point action plan which includes achieving 500 GW of installed power generation capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030.

3. India intends to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070 and to meet 50% of its electricity needs from renewable sources by

2030. India has updated its nationally determined contributions in August 2022. We have embarked on far reaching new initiatives in renewable energy, e-mobility, ethanol blended fuels and green hydrogen as an alternate energy source.

4. India recognizes that new technologies play a crucial role in the development of affordable, accessible and adaptable solutions in areas of low carbon development, renewable energy generation and climate protection. The solar energy has, in particular, great potential to increase energy access, foster economic development and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the region.

5. India believes that the international community need to forge a comprehensive partnership to harness new technologies, policies, financing mechanisms and economic incentives to reduce emissions.

6. Among various initiatives, India launched the National Clean Air Programme in January 2019 with an aim to improve air quality in 131 cities by engaging all stakeholders. The programme envisages reduction by 20-30% in PM 10 concentration over base line in year 2017 by 2024. 95 cities have already improved air quality in FY 2021-22 compared to base levels of 2017. The proposed activities under NCAP programme includes constitution of Air Quality Management Cell in 131 cities and Nodal Officers have been identified in all 131 cities. Committees have been set up at national, state and city level for coordination, monitoring and evaluation of progress on action plans by various stakeholder agencies/Departments/Ministries. A National Knowledge Network

with experts from varied fields, NGOs and academia, has been established and made operational to provide technical and knowledge support to the programme at national/state/city level. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change is also conducting regional workshops for sensitization, knowledge sharing and capacity building of the stakeholders.

7. India has taken several initiatives to improve air quality. These include actions in the field of vehicular emission like enhancing the network of metro rails for public transport and covering more cities and faster adoption and manufacturing of electric vehicles; responding to industrial emission by implementing policies like stringent emission norms for coal based thermal power plants and shifting of industrial units to piped natural gas; tackling air pollution caused due to dust and burning of waste; and monitoring of Ambient Air Quality. In addition, the Government of India has released several schemes and initiatives to improve air quality.

8. Urban Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0 has been launched by the Government of India for the period 2021-2026 with a special focus on source segregation of garbage, reduction in single-use plastic, and bio-remediation of all legacy dump sites. Under the Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) Scheme of the Government of India, 5,000 Compressed

Bio-Gas (CBG) production plants will be set up across the country for use in automotive fuels.

9. To conclude, India reiterates its support to regional solidarity and cooperation to address the environmental challenges in the Asia-Pacific.

Thank you, Chair.
